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Major blow to Putin as Finland joins NATO
The Nordic country's membership doubles Russia's border with NATO and represents a major change in Europe's security landscape. Finland adopted neutrality after its defeat by the Soviets in World War II. But its leaders decided to join the world's biggest security alliance as its 31st member, months after Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. The move is a political blow to Putin, who has complained about NATO's expansion toward Russia | P9

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14 FLIGHTS
DIVERTED FROM KIA
6 departing flights suffered major delays due to heavy rain & strong winds | P2

Don held, faces 34 felony charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DONALD Trump on Tuesday became the first former American president to be arrested after he formally turned himself in for a New York court hearing amid heavy security cover. As expected, he was not handcuffed when he was produced before the court around midnight India time.

He was silent and stone-faced when he entered the courtroom and left after about an hour.

The twice-impeached Republican pleaded not guilty to 34 charges of felony related to hush money paid to an adult film star ahead of the 2016 presidential race. The



Former president Donald Trump sits at the defence table with his legal team in a Manhattan court on Tuesday | AP

charges were revealed after his indictment by a Manhattan grand jury was unsealed in the court.

The hearing marked a watershed moment for the US criminal and political system, as Trump is the leading Republican nominee for the 2024 White House race. Yet, President Joe Biden's office claimed the incumbent was paying little attention to the arraignment of his predecessor Donald Trump. "Obviously he will catch part of the news when he has a moment to catch up on news of the day but this is not a focus for him," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre claimed.

Earlier in the day, Trump waved to crowds outside the building before heading inside to be fingerprinted and processed. He arrived at court in an eight-car motorcade from Trump Tower, communicating in real time his anger at the process. After the arraignment, Trump is expected to be released because the charges against him don't require bail.

"Heading to Lower Manhattan, the Courthouse," the ex-president posted on his Truth Social platform. "Seems so SURREAL — WOW, they are going to ARREST ME. Can't believe this is happening in America. MAGA!"

INPACK PLAYER
Amul
NO SUBSTITUTES FOR IT!

Mughals, Dalit writers axed from CBSE texts

DONNA EVA @Bengaluru

CHAPTERS on the Mughal Empire, central Islamic lands, democracy and diversity, among others, have been dropped in the revised National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) history books for Classes 6-12.

With allegations of right-wing ideology behind the move, NCERT Director Dinesh Prasad Saxhiani has said the revisions were made to reduce chances of overlapping, and were not because of any ideological reasons.

NCERT released the list of rationalised content for Class 6 to 12, a decision taken in 2022, post the Covid-19 pandemic.

The changes will come into effect from the next academic year for students studying under the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) as well as state syllabus schools that follow the NCERT syllabus.

With the list of rationalised content posted, the issue has caused a controversy as chapters and content on the Mughal Empire, Dalit writers and democracy, among others, have been removed completely. Several prominent figures have criticised the rationalisation of the textbooks, alleging that it was being done to erase the influence of the Mughal Empire in India.

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AVALANCHE IN SIKKIM KILLS 7

PRONAB MONDAL @Kolkata

SEVEN tourists were killed and 11 others injured on Tuesday in a massive avalanche near the Nathu La pass in east Sikkim, on the border with China. The avalanche happened around 11.10 am on the Gangtok-Nathu La Jawaharlal Nehru Marg near the 15th milestone.

Tourists are not permitted to travel beyond Milestone 13 due to inclement weather, yet they forced tour operators and drivers to take them to the area where the incident happened, a police officer claimed. Army and Border Road Organisation personnel were deployed to rescue the trapped tourists. As many as 350 stranded tourists and 80 vehicles were rescued after clearing the snow from the road to Nathu La.

"Approximately five-six vehicles with 30-odd tourists on Nathu La were stuck under the snow. We rescued 27 people while seven of them succumbed to their injuries. Others were taken to a nearby Army medical facility. Search is on to find out whether more people are trapped under the snow," said a defence department spokesperson.



Rescue operations under way on Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in eastern Sikkim, after a massive avalanche on Tuesday | PTI

Woman, 70, waves red shorts, averts train mishap

VINCENT D'SOUZA @Mangaluru

A brave and alert 70-year-old woman, who has had heart surgery, ran 150 metres from her house, waved a red cloth and prevented an express train from crashing into a fallen tree on the railway tracks in the city recently. The incident occurred on March 21, but came to light recently.

The woman, Chandravathi, was honoured by the Railways on Wednesday for averting a major accident. She said she heard a loud noise like a mountain falling as she was preparing to take a nap after lunch. She immediately ran towards the railway track, which is around 150 metres from her house at Mandara near Pachanady between Padil and Jokatte. She found a large tree lying on the track, fully covering it.

It was 2.10 pm and the thought of Matsyagandha Express train leaving Mangaluru to Mumbai in the next 10 minutes sent shivers down her spine. P5



Chandravathi re-enacts how she waved the red cloth



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

**Messiah of Green Revolution,
Ex. Deputy Prime Minister of India**

Dr. BABU JAGJIVAN RAM

116th Birthday Celebration

**Garlanding the statue of
Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram**

Date: 05.04.2023 Wednesday

Time: 9:00 a.m.

**Venue: West Entrance of Vidhana Soudha,
Bengaluru**

All are Welcome

**Commissioner
Social Welfare Department**

**"The growth of the National Economy rests
heavily on the growth of Agriculture."**

-Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram

To Protect and respect our varied culture and traditions - is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of the Country.